

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 17, 2005**

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**DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES MAY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT EFFORTS**

Mosquito season is just beginning, which could also mean the beginning of West Nile Virus (WNV) season. As a means to protect the residents of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County, sections of the county will be treated for mosquitoes on Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 a.m., weather permitting. Geographic areas to be covered include west and south Washoe Valley, Rosewood Lakes, Bella Vista ranch, Double Diamond and Damonte ranch (south meadows area), Stead, Lemmon Valley and Spanish Springs Valley. The application is restricted to wetlands areas only. Residential neighborhoods are not affected. Applications will take place every other week throughout the summer.

The aerial application will be conducted by helicopter under the direction of the District Health Department's Vector Control Program. Using an insect growth regulator, the application will prevent the emergence of biting adult mosquitoes.

Area residents are reminded to take the following precautions during the spring and summer months to prevent an increase in the mosquito population in and around their homes:

- Clear the yard area of any free-standing water that may become a mosquito breeding-ground
- Wear long sleeves and long pants in mosquito prone areas
- Use mosquito repellant and follow label precautions
- Repair any window screens that provide entry for mosquitoes
- Vaccinate horses for Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE)
- Vaccinate horses for West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Report night-time mosquito activity to the District Health Department at 328-2434